

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 4, and 11-15 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action at pages 2-3, the Examiner rejects claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 in view of Dekker (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0003762). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. In view of the Examiner withdrawal of the rejection in the Advisory Action of July 25, 2006, it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 is in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103:

On pages 3-8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-3 and 7-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Dekker and Ichihara (U.S. Patent 6,396,792). This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Consistent with the arguments set forth in the Preliminary Amendment entered with the Request for Continued Examination on August 4, 2006, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Ichihara and Dekker does not disclose or suggest the invention as recited in claim 1. Further, it is respectfully submitted that there is insufficient evidence of a motivation to alter the patterns of Ichihara and Dekker in a manner meeting the features of claim 1 as required to maintain a *prima facie* obviousness rejection, and that the Examiner has not accounted for evidence of non-obviousness of record in making the rejection.

For at least similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 2, 3 and 7-16 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

On pages 8-10 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Seo (U.S. Publication 2002/0101808) and Ichihara. This rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In view of the Examiner withdrawal of the rejection in the Advisory Action of July 25, 2006, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6 are in condition for allowance, and that the rejection of claim 1 is overcome as set forth above.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI, LLP

Date: August 17, 2006

By:


James G. McEwen
Registration No. 41,983

1400 Eye St., N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 216-9505
Facsimile: (202) 216-9510